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Taylor University NEWS BUREAU

UPLAND, INDIANA

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March 31, 1960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upland, Indiana - - Taylor University has received notice from the United States Atomic Energy Commission that a new research contract is being awarded to the college for research in the field of genetics, President B. Joseph Martin has announced.

Senior investigator for the project will be Vida G. Wood, Associate Professor of Biology.

The purpose of the new research program is to study the effects of radiation on the life span of the fruit fly.

"Longevity and the factors affecting it have long been a source of interest and research," Professor Wood stated. Physical and biological factors relating to life span are interdependent. With our increasing use of radiation and our awareness of its presence in our world today, its effect on longevity is a vital concern of man.

"Research that will provide a basis for our understanding and control of these relationships, can contribute much to our future happiness and even to continued existence itself," the scientist commented.

In the research program, the eggs, larvae and young adults of various types of fruit flies, reared under a variety of environmental conditions, will be subjected to various dosages of radiation by X-ray.

A comparative study of the development of both irradiated and normal fruit flies will be conducted and records of the life spans of each group will be compiled. The research also will include observation of the offspring of the various groups of flies, at least through the second generation.

The new research program is scheduled to be launched early in June. The initial appropriation by the Commission will total \$12,500.

Two other Taylor professors will assist in the life-span study. Dr. Donald Porter, Professor of Mathematics, will serve as consultant in the design of the experiments and will provide a statistical evaluation of the results.

Dr. Elmer Nussbaum, Radiation Scientist and Head of the Taylor Science Division, will supervise the radiation procedures.

For the past two years Taylor has been conducting research in radiation biology and providing

